

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. So what we will really have left in 611 is the intent of the Legislature to replace the present school financing and to assure property tax relief and tax equity, and then the technical school district's identification number?

SENATOR MOORE: Third thing in there is the sunset on foundation and equalization aid, the third thing will still be in there.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yeah, that hammer will still be in. I guess I will support the amendment to LB 611 but I am curious to see how this will play out. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to call the question but I did hear that Senator Warner had his light on and I would be curious to see, naturally, what he would be saying on the issue, so I will not do so at this particular time. I will make a couple of comments if I can. At the beginning of the legislative session back in January, if we can all remember back that way, Senator Withem and I and others brought up a \$50 million property tax relief, and it was stated to be just to bring the issue to the forefront, and the reason I bring that up again, and remind the body, is that basically the first week or so of the Legislature property tax was put as one of the major issues that this Legislature was going to face or try to deal with. Of course, many Legislatures in the past have said the same thing, and the real question that hung out there in the minds of many in the media, and I am sure the people of our districts was, yes, we have heard this before but what are you really going to end up doing. After that, we had numerous bills introduced to the Revenue Committee which Senator Hall took some time to go through, and I, myself, had a couple of options that I put in simply for the Revenue Committee to have other choices; one being very similar to 611, a local option income tax, and also a clause similar to LB 104. All of a sudden, we had a lot of bills. We were wondering what the Revenue Committee was going to come up with but there was no focus, no one had any particular area that they were looking at that was taking the forefront. And then by magic over the weekend, over a period of time, a light shone and it shone on, basically, a small group of the Legislature, who sometimes always get together, such people as Senator Hall and Senator